

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-14

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01
INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15
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R 051250Z APR 78
FM AMEMBASSY SANTO DOMINGO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4086
INFO AMEMBASSY LISBON

C O N F I D E N T I A L SANTO DOMINGO 1750

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PGOV, PINT, DR
SUBJECT: FAREWELL CALL ON PRESIDENT BALAGUER

1. DURING MY FAREWELL CALL ON PRESIDENT BALAGUER APRIL 3, I REITERATED THE USG'S STRONG INTEREST IN FREE AND HONEST ELECTIONS. THE PRESIDENT REPLIED, AS HE HAS ON PREVIOUS OCCASIONS, THAT ONCE A VOTER ENTERS THE VOTING BOOTH, HE CASTS HIS BALLOT FREELY AND SECRETLY. HE CONTINUED THAT THEREAFTER THE TALLY PROCESS IS FOOLPROOF AND UNDER STRICT CONTROL. THE CONVERSATION TURNED TO THE DESIRABILITY OF A CLIMATE CONDUCIVE TO FREE ELECTIONS PRIOR TO THE ACTUAL VOTING PROCESS. BALAGUER REPLIED THAT THE CAMPAIGNS WERE UNFOLDING IN AN ATMOSPHERE OF FREEDOM AND TRANQUILITY. HE OBSERVED THAT AN ISOLATED INCIDENT OF OVERZEALOUSNESS MIGHT OCCUR ON EITHER SIDE IN SOME REMOTE CORNER OF THE COUNTRY AND THAT SUCH WAS BEYOND HIS CONTROL AND OF MINOR IMPORTANCE. HE THEN LAUNCHED INTO RATHER CAUSTIC (FOR HIM) CRITICISM OF THE BEHAVIOR OF SOARES DURING HIS VISIT. HE STRESSED THAT HE KNEW OF NO OTHER COUNTRY IN LATIN AMERICA WHERE SUCH PARTISAN ACTIONS OF A VISITING CHIEF OF GOVERNMENT WOULD HAVE BEEN TOLERATED. INSTEAD OF ASKING HIM TO LEAVE ON THE NEXT PLANE AS WOULD HAVE BEEN THE CASE ELSEWHERE, SOARES WAS TREATED WITH THE UTMOST COURTESY AND DEFERENCE. ALL THIS DESPITE THE FACT THAT SOARES HAD DECLINED THE PRESIDENT'S LUNCHEON INVITATION BECAUSE HE WAS SCHEDULED TO

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PARTICIPATE IN THE POLITICAL CARAVAN OF THE MAJOR OPPOSITION PARTY.

2. IN RESPONSE TO MY INQUIRY, HE WAS CAUTIOUS ABOUT PROSPECTS OF HIS RE-ELECTION, ADDING HOWEVER THAT ONE DIDN'T ENTER POLITICAL CONTESTS WITH THE GOAL OF LOSING. HE CONTINUED THAT IF HE LOST, THE FIRST CONGRATULATORY TELEGRAM THE WINNER RECEIVED WOULD BE HIS.

IN AS CLOSE TO AN EXASPERATED TONE AS I'VE HEARD FROM THIS
EXTRAORDINARILY PATIENT MAN, HE CLOSED THE SUBJECT WITH THE
REMARK, "I REALLY DON'T KNOW WHAT MORE I CAN DO."

3. THE REST OF THE MEETING WAS NONSUBSTANTIVE.
HURWITCH

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NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: DIPLOMATIC DISCUSSIONS, POLITICAL SITUATION, PRESIDENTIAL ELECTIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 05 apr 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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Handling Restrictions: n/a
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TAGS: PGOV, PINT, DR, (BALAGUER, JOAQUIN), (HURWITCH, ROBERT A)
To: STATE
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